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Arizona Crops

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Hired Workers Up 3 Percent, Wage Rates Up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

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Release Dates For Upcoming National Reports

March 22.....Cotton Ginnings
March 30.....Agricultural Prices
March 31.....Grain Stocks
March 31.....Prospective Plantings
April 3.....Vegetables
April 10.....Crop Production

All Orange Production Down 2 Percent

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2005-06 season is 9.00 million tons, down 2 percent from the February forecast and 1 percent below last season's final utilization of 9.11 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 154 million boxes (6.93 million tons), is down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from the 2004-05 crop. The Florida Valencia forecast is 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast. If realized, this will be the first time that Florida's Valencia utilized production is greater than early, midseason, and navel varieties. California conducted a March 1 objective yield survey on Valencia oranges, which are forecast at 11.0 million boxes, down 8 percent from January.

Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States, 2003-04, 2004-05 and Forecasted March 1, 2006 1/

Crop and State	Utilized Production		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1,000 Boxes 2/			
Oranges, Early, Mid, and Navel 3/			
AZ 4/	300	240	250
CA 4/	39,500	43,000	42,000
FL	126,000	79,100	76,000
TX 4/	1,420	1,500	1,300
US	167,220	123,840	119,550
Oranges, Valencia			
AZ 4/	170	190	200
CA	11,000	18,000	11,000
FL	116,000	70,500	78,000
TX 4/	230	270	230
US	127,400	88,960	89,430
All Oranges			
AZ 4/	470	430	450
CA	50,500	61,000	53,000
FL	242,000	149,600	154,000
TX 4/	1,650	1,770	1,530
US	294,620	212,800	208,980
All Grapefruit			
AZ 4/	140	140	100
CA 4/	5,800	5,800	6,000
FL	40,900	12,800	17,000
TX 4/	5,700	6,600	5,100
US	52,540	25,340	28,200
Tangerines			
AZ 4/ 5/	690	400	500
CA 4/ 5/	2,200	2,800	3,100
FL	6,500	4,450	5,200
US	9,390	7,650	8,800
Lemons 4/			
AZ	3,000	2,400	3,800
CA	18,000	19,000	19,000
US	21,000	21,400	22,800

1/ The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

2/ Net lbs. per box: oranges-AZ and CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-AZ and CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76; tangerines-AZ and CA-75, FL-95.

3/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.

4/ Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

5/ Includes tangelos and tangors.

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January Farm Prices Received Index Unchanged From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from January. The Crop Index is up 5 points (4.6 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points (3.4 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for oranges, wheat, hay, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, milk, and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average

marketings of cattle, milk, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 1 point (0.9 percent) from February 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 2 points (1.7 percent) from last month and decreased 2 points (1.7 percent) from February 2005.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 146 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from January but 9 points (6.6 percent) above February 2005. Lower prices in February for

feeder cattle, feeder pigs, LP gas, and herbicides offset higher prices for complete feeds, hay & forages, self-propelled machinery, and feed supplements.

Prices Received by Farmers: Arizona and United States, February 2005 and 2006 and January 2006

Commodity	Unit	Arizona			United States		
		February 2005 Entire Month	January 2006 Entire Month	February 2006 Mid-Month	February 2005 Entire Month	January 2006 Entire Month	February 2006 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton	¢ Lb	47.1	54.2	1/	38.3	48.6	48.3
Cottonseed 2/	\$ Ton	166.00	136.00	127.00	111.00	102.00	98.20
Durum Wheat 3/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	124.00	109.70	111.00
Alfalfa Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	110.00	125.00	130.00	94.00	95.60	99.20
Oranges 5/	\$ Box	18.20	17.80	16.90	18.60	19.00	19.70
Lemons 5/	\$ Box	28.10	24.50	24.10	30.30	25.20	25.80
Tangerines 5/	\$ Box	26.10	29.80	24.80	28.50	30.70	26.50
Grapefruit 5/	\$ Box	15.20	24.50	21.30	29.90	26.20	25.60
Cows 6/	\$ Cwt	56.40	46.30	46.30	52.50	47.30	48.50
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	106.00	108.00	108.00	93.10	102.00	98.10
Beef Cattle 7/	\$ Cwt	97.10	89.50	89.50	88.80	95.10	92.60
Calves	\$ Cwt	131.00	128.00	130.00	129.00	141.00	142.00
All Milk 8/	\$ Cwt	15.00	14.10	13.40	15.50	14.50	13.80

1/ Prices not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or insufficient sales.

2/ Marketing year August – February.

3/ Not available for Arizona.

4/ Mid-month.

5/ F.O.B. packed fresh Arizona box weights: Lemons 76 lbs., Oranges 75 lbs., Tangerines 75 lbs., Grapefruit 67 lbs.

6/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

7/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

8/ Preliminary; before for hauling. Includes quality and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005		2006	
	January	February	January	February
Prices Received	111	114	113	113
Prices Paid	137	137	146	146
Ratio 1/	81	83	77	77

1/ Ratio of index prices received by farmers to index of prices paid by farmers.